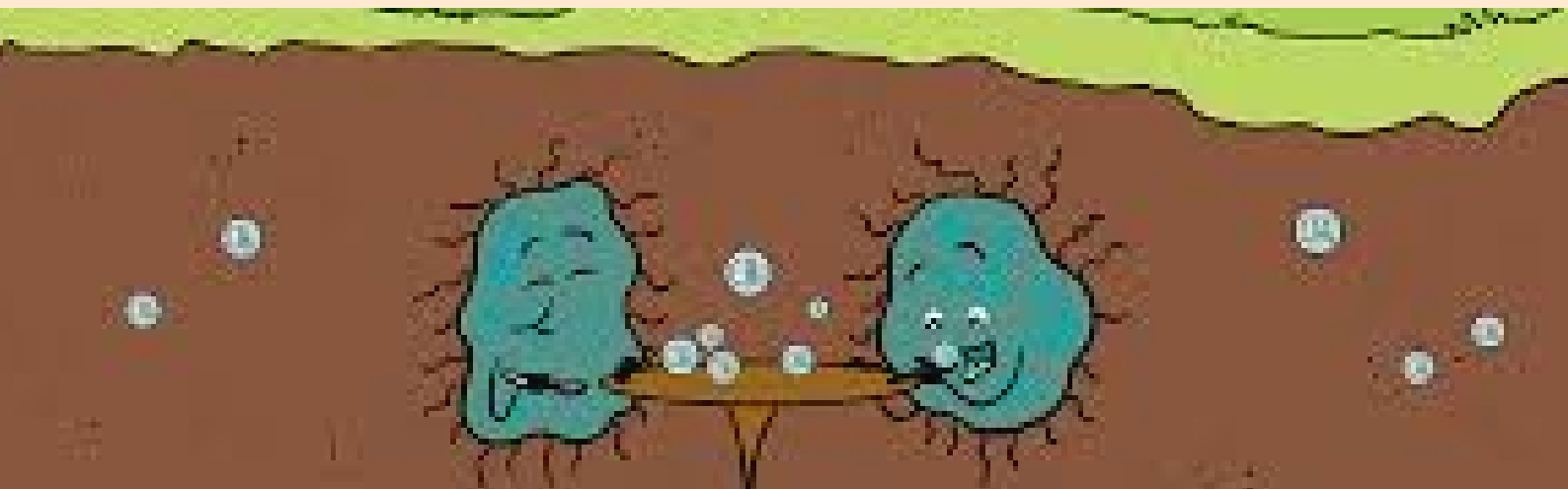


29/04/24 - 04/05/24



# C.A. SHORTS

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## KEY FACTORS THAT CAN AFFECT A PERSONAL LOAN PROPOSAL

The absence of collateral in personal loans increases the credit risk for lenders, thereby leading them to exercise a more stringent loan-evaluation process

### **Credit Score Importance:**

Lenders prioritize applicants with credit scores of 700 and above, as they are seen as financially disciplined. Higher credit scores reduce the credit risk for lenders and increase the chances of loan approval.

Applicants with lower credit scores may face rejection or be approved at higher interest rates due to increased credit risk.



## REPAYMENT CAPACITY:

Lenders prefer applicants whose total monthly repayment obligations, including the proposed loan EMI, are within 50-55% of their monthly income.

Longer loan tenures can help lower monthly EMIs and improve the chances of loan approval.

It's important to consider monthly contributions towards financial goals when selecting EMI and loan tenures.

### Occupation Profile and Job Stability:

Lenders consider the employment profile and job stability of applicants. Salaried individuals, especially those with stable jobs in public or reputed private

sector corporations, are preferred. Job stability and tenure in the current organization are factors considered by lenders.

Banking relationships can also play a role, as many banks prefer lending to existing customers with good credit profiles or significant deposits/investments.



## TOWARDS GREEN GROWTH

**The RBI must assess the impact of climate change on economic stability**

### **RBI's Focus on Climate Risks:**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given prominence to "extreme weather events" and "climate shocks" in its latest Monetary Policy Report. These events not only impact food inflation but also influence the natural rate of interest, which affects the economy's financial stability.

The report utilizes a "New-Keynesian model" to estimate the macroeconomic impact of climate change, warning of a potential 9% decrease in long-term economic output by 2050 without mitigation policies.

### **RBI's Steps Towards Green Economy:**

Since July 2022, the RBI has been making incremental progress in addressing the transition to a green economy.

While acknowledging India's need for over \$17 trillion to achieve net-zero ambitions by 2070, the RBI has taken steps

such as issuing Sovereign Green Bonds worth ₹16,000 crore and allowing Foreign Institutional Investors to participate in future green government securities.

The RBI could draw inspiration from initiatives in the ASEAN region to develop a layered green taxonomy, which assesses the sustainability of economic activities and guides policymaking

### **Need for Comprehensive Assessment:**

++The article suggests that the RBI should conduct a thorough assessment of the quantitative and qualitative impact of climate change on economic and financial stability.

Administrative consultation is recommended to develop a green taxonomy that reflects India's diverse developmental trajectories and mitigates transitional risks to the financial system during the shift to a sustainable future.



## WHY ARE UNCLASSIFIED FORESTS 'MISSING'?

**What does the Forest (Conservation) Act Amendment (FCAA) 2023 mandate with respect to unclassified forests?**

**What was the criticism against the amended Act?**

**Have all States submitted their State Expert Committee reports as per the Supreme Court directives?**

### THE GIST

• With the enactment of FCAA, unclassified forests – which have legal protection under the landmark T.N. Godavarman Thirumalpad (1996) case – would lose this protection, leading to their inevitable diversion.

• No State has provided verifiable data on the identification, status, and location of unclassified forests. In fact, seven States and Union Territories appear not to have constituted the SEC at all. Twenty-three States have shared their reports but only 17 are in line with the Court's directives.

• It is clear that the reports were hastily put together, using incomplete and unverified data collected from readily available records.

**‘India can lead on sustainability initiatives for entire Asia-Pacific’**

• Paul Marriott, President of SAP Asia-Pacific and Japan, believes India has the potential to lead climate change efforts in the Asia-Pacific region.

• He highlighted India's significant market size, fast-growing innovation landscape, and increasing recognition of the importance of sustainability and ESG initiatives among Indian firms.

• Marriott emphasized the need for integrating carbon and financial data to inform decision-making and highlighted SAP's significant investments in India to leverage cutting-edge technology for businesses.





## **EXPERT PANEL FAVOURS REOPENING ELEPHANT CORRIDOR, SHIFTING CHINNAKANAL COLONIES**

**Expert panel recommends reopening of elephant corridor from Anayirankal to Old Devikulam in Munnar to address human-wildlife conflict in Chinnakanal.**

**Short-term measures proposed include installing solar fencing around ration shops to prevent elephant attacks.**

**Long-term strategies include voluntary relocation of human settlements and considering the area as a conservation reserve to deter illegal activities and ensure the free movement of wild elephants.**





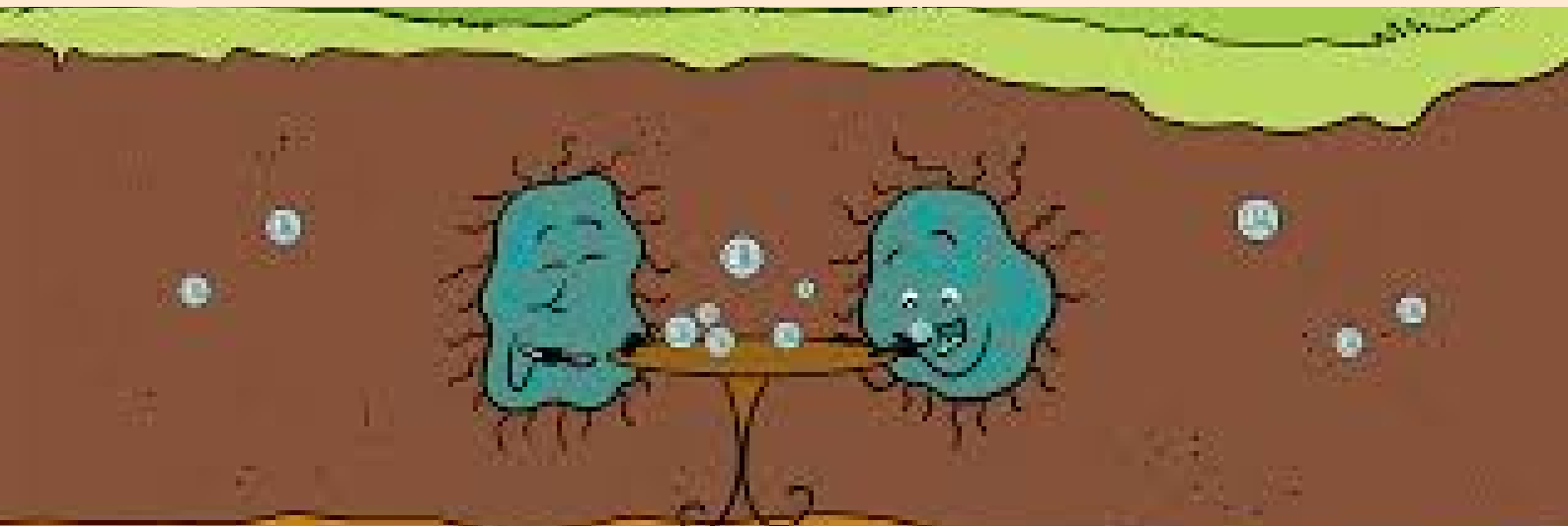
## CORE SECTORS SLID 5.2% IN MARCH

The Index of Core Industries rose at a three-year low pace of 7.5% through 2023-24, but hit a multi-year high in March; for the first time in 12 years all 8 sectors recorded annual growth, led by double-digit upticks in steel and coal

- India's eight core infrastructure sectors experienced a moderated output growth of 5.2% in March, with notable increases in cement and electricity production offset by contractions in fertilizers and refinery products.

- Despite the moderation, the full year 2023-24 marked a three-year low growth of 7.5% for the core sectors, although it was the first time in at least 12 years that all eight sectors recorded annual growth, with steel and coal leading with double-digit upticks.

- Economists anticipate a cooling off of overall industrial output growth from the previous month's 5.7% uptick, projecting the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) growth at 3.5-5% in March 2024, as indicated by Aditi Nayar, chief economist at rating agency ICRA.



## **MICROBES, NOT FOSSIL FUELS, PRODUCED MOST NEW METHANE: STUDY**

A modelling study has found methane emissions from fossil fuels declined between 1990 and the 2000s and have been stable since, whereas microbes have been producing more methane of late. One reason could be an increase in cattle-rearing in Latin America and more emissions from waste in South and Southeast Asia

### **THE GIST**

Methane is the second most abundant anthropogenic greenhouse gas after carbon dioxide but it warms the planet more. Over a century, methane has a global warming potential 28-times greater than CO<sub>2</sub>.

Methane is released by two main processes: biogenic and thermogenic. When fossil fuels are extracted from the earth's crust, thermogenic methane is released. Biogenic methane comes from microbial action. Studies in the past have pointed to microbes like anaerobic archaea as potentially top contributors of atmospheric methane using satellite data, but this information contains gaps that ground-based models can bridge



## MAKE EPI AN 'ESSENTIAL PROGRAMME ON IMMUNISATION'

- The year 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the launch of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1974. India also initiated its national immunization program in 1978, which was later renamed the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in 1985.
- Over the past five decades, significant progress has been made globally and in India in terms of immunization impact and vaccine availability. From six diseases preventable by vaccines in 1974, there are now vaccines against 13 universally recommended diseases and 17 additional context-specific diseases under research.

• **Despite successes, challenges persist, including declining childhood immunization coverage globally, persisting inequities in coverage by geography and socio-economic strata in India, and the need for policy shifts towards adult and elderly vaccination. Initiatives like the recent pilot of adult BCG vaccination and the COVID-19 vaccination drive highlight the importance of expanding vaccination programs to all age groups.**





## **PARTICLES CALLED QUARKS HOLD THE KEY TO THE FINAL FATE OF SOME STARS**

In neutron stars, the strength with which the core collapses fuses protons and electrons into neutrons. Neutron stars are extremely dense, creating immense pressure that could be forcing the neutrons into a new state of matter. An old open problem asks whether this state could be quark matter

- Recent studies reveal insights into quark behavior, indicating a preference for three-quark clumps over two-quark clumps under specific conditions.
- Neutron stars, incredibly dense celestial objects, may harbor quark matter in their cores, potentially altering our understanding of stellar evolution.
- Experimental evidence, such as collisions at high energies, offers glimpses into quark behavior, including the formation of quark-gluon plasma and the early universe's state.



## ANALYSING LABOUR ON A WARMING PLANET

The link between labour productivity, human health and climate change gets scant attention, as the focus remains on economic and infrastructure resilience. The International Labour Organization's latest report points to the need to ensure that labour becomes climate proofed.

### THE GIST

- The ILO has identified six key impacts of climate change. They are – excessive heat, solar ultraviolet radiation, extreme weather events, workplace air pollution, vector-borne diseases and agrochemicals.
- When it comes to dealing with occupational heat, the Factories Act broadly defines “ventilation and temperature” and leaves it to the States to decide optimal standards based on specific industries. However, these regulations were framed more than five decades back.
- Amendments are also required to address the handling of effluents and byproducts disposal, as they could significantly impact human health based on temperature



## **SEBI MAKES NOMINATION OPTIONAL FOR JOINT MF ACCOUNTS**

**Capital markets regulator SEBI on Wednesday made the nomination optional for jointly-held mutual fund (MF) accounts to promote ease of doing business.**

**Additionally, SEBI allowed fund houses to have a single fund manager to oversee commodity and foreign investments. This would reduce the cost of managing the fund. These came after a working group constituted by SEBI reviewed MF regulations and recommended measures to promote ease of doing business.**

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## A COMPUTER SCIENCE CONUNDRUM THAT COULD TRANSFORM HEALTHCARE

While it may sound like a cryptic puzzle reserved for computer science mavens, the implications of the P versus NP problem stretch beyond algorithms and data structures, rippling through diverse fields, including antimicrobial resistance, cancer care, and medical insurance.

- Anton van Leeuwenhoek's discovery of microorganisms in the 17th century paved the way for microbiology, offering solutions to healthcare challenges.
- The P versus NP problem in computer science could hold the key to solving complex healthcare issues by potentially providing shortcuts for solving NP problems as quickly as P problems.
- If P equals NP, implications for healthcare include rapid analysis of bacterial genomes for antibiotic resistance, personalized cancer treatment plans, and optimized decision-making for insurance companies, leading to improved patient outcomes and resource allocation.





## WHY ARE INDIAN SPICES FACING THE HEAT?

- On April 5, Hong Kong's Centre for Food Safety suspended the sale of three MDH spice blends (Madras curry powder, Sambhar masala and Curry powder masala) and Everest Fish curry masala.
- MDH and Everest's spice mixes allegedly contain high levels of EtO, a prohibited pesticide. EtO is a colourless, flammable gas that was originally intended for sterilising medical devices.
- GTRI assessed that if regulators in China follow their peers in Hong Kong, Indian exports could see a "dramatic downturn". This could affect exports valued at \$2.17 billion – about 51.1% of the country's global spice exports.



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NATIONAL PAYMENTS CORPORATION OF INDIA

## **NPCI'S GLOBAL ARM TO DEVELOP UPI-LIKE SYSTEM FOR NAMIBIA**

**NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has signed an agreement with the Bank of Namibia to support the institution in developing an instant payment system like the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) for Namibia. “By leveraging technology and experiences from India’s UPI, the partnership seeks to help Namibia modernise its financial ecosystem,” NIPL said in a statement.**

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